

[2 March, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

- \* Phasing out of more than 15 year old commercial transport vehicles;
- \* Implementation of stringent diesel-generator set emission norms;
- \* Regular monitoring for environmental compliance.

#### **Shrinkage in acreage**

478. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the shrinkage in acreage will lead to fall in oilseeds output;
- (b) if so, the complete details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the reasons for such shrinkage;
- (d) whether the dry spell in early part of the current monsoon discouraged many farmers in Andhra Pradesh to take up groundnut cultivation;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps being taken to help farmers in such circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Pollution index**

†479. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:  
SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India is at number three amongst the pollution spreading countries;

---

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the index thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the names of the industries causing excessive pollution;
- (d) the steps being taken by Government to reduce the pollution; and
- (e) the efforts being made to control the pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (e) As per the 2005 Environmental Sustainability Index (ESI), formulated by the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy, Yale University and Center for International Earth Science information Network, Columbia University, in collaboration with the World Economic Forum and others, India is ranked at 101st position out of 146 countries. This index utilized for ranking various countries, integrates 21 indicators of Environmental Sustainability including air, water quality and environmental governance. Ranking of various states within our country as per this index is, however, not available. As regards monitoring of the environmental quality, the Central Pollution Control Board is already implementing the National Air Quality Monitoring Programme and the National Water Quality Monitoring Programme, under which the air and water quality status is monitored on periodic basis through its air and water quality monitoring locations.

Based on the pollution potential, 17 categories of highly polluting industries have been identified, namely, Aluminum, Cement, Chlor-Alkali, Copper, Distillery, Dyes & dye intermediates, Fertilizer, Iron & Steel, Oil Refineries, Pesticides, Petrochemicals, Pharmaceuticals, Pulp & Paper, Sugar, Tannery, thermal Power Plants and Zinc. The steps taken to reduce pollution are as follows:—

- \* Emission and effluent standards have been notified for various industries under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- \* Enforcement and compliance for industries is monitored through respective State Pollution Control Boards.
- \* Charter on 'Corporate Responsibility for Environment Protection (CREP)' has been set-up as a road map for progressive improvement of environment.
- \* Legal action against non-complying industries.